

NEWS RELEASE
STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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56 ARRESTED TRYING TO PRESENT CLARKSDALE PETITION;
MARLON BRANDO AND BILLY GRAHAM EXPECTED HERE

CLARKSDALE, MISSISSIPPI, JULY 30 --- Fifty-six persons, including Aaron Henry, state president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and a representative of the National Council of Churches, were arrested here this afternoon in a vain attempt to present a petition to Clarksdale officials urging a bi racial committee.

Lafayette Surney, field secretary for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, said also that Billy Graham, world-famous evangelist, and Marlon Brando, film star, were expected to come to Clarksdale soon to aid the anti-segregation protests here.

Surney said the group of 56 went to the city hall, armed with a signed petition asking for a bi-racial committee. They never got a chance to present it.

Two members of the group held signs reading "Segregation is evil" and "The way out is a bi-racial committee." Others were waving American flags.

The group was charged with "parading without a permit" and sentenced to 30 days and \$100 fine. Surney said most of the arrestees had vowed to remain in jail.

Dr. Henry, who has been under attack here for many years by arch-segregationist forces, led the line. Accompanying him was an unidentified white man, an observer for the National Council of Churches.

Dr. Henry, the church group, SNCC, and other persons and organizations were cited here a month ago in an injunction forbidding demonstrations.